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CORE LIST

an improved system for estimating the value of western white pine

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ABSTRACT

This report describes an improved system for estimating the lumber selling value or volume of western white pine sawtimber.

Of 298 trees selected to represent the full range in size and quality of commercial sawtimber available in northern Idaho, 192 were used to develop a prediction model for estimating the value and lumber tally volume of individual western white pine trees. Of the remaining 106 trees, seven were culls and 99 were used to test the prediction equation.

The model developed contains six tree characteristics:

1. Tree diameter
2. Tree height
3. Height to the first live limb
4. The number of limb-free and defect-free faces in the butt 16-foot log
5. Diameter of the largest limb in the butt 16-foot log
6. Total tree defect percent.

The prediction equation, using those six characteristics, accounts for 94 percent of the variation in tree value and 95 percent of the variation in lumber tally volume as measured by the regression R^2 values.

A test of the system indicated that the prediction underestimated the value of all trees by 6.5 percent and underestimated the lumber tally volume by 2.7 percent.

The system is faster and more objective than log grading and has the additional advantage of eliminating grouping error by being a continuous predictor.

Keywords: Western white pine, tree value estimates, tree volume estimates, grading system.

INTRODUCTION

This paper, written primarily for timber appraisers, describes an improved system for estimating the lumber selling value or volume of individual tracts of western white pine (*Pinus monticola* Dougl.) sawtimber. It is similar to one described earlier by Lane, Plank, and Henley.¹

Conventional systems for appraising the value of western white pine sawtimber incorporate volume and quality estimates of the resource. The estimate of quality has generally been in the form of discrete log grades. These log grades have often proven to be inadequate for a number of reasons:

1. *Application is slow and thus expensive.* The timber cruiser is required to scrutinize each 16-foot log throughout the merchantable stem.
2. *Application is difficult, subjective, and thus inconsistent.* To determine the grade for each 16-foot unit, the cruiser must categorize limbs as to size and whether they are live or dead. He must then determine the number in each category along with such information as the amount of clear area in these 16-foot units to determine the "grade." It is difficult for a cruiser to be consistent in application with such subjective inputs.
3. *Grouping error in estimating value is introduced.* When placing logs into discrete value classes (log grades), there will generally be a range of values within each class. Also, there is no distinct difference in value between the poorest logs of one grade and the best logs of the next lower grade.

The new system differs from the conventional log grading procedure in two principal ways: (1) It provides a selling value estimate for each cruise tree as a unit--therefore, it is more appropriately designated a tree grading system than a log grading system, and (2) the system does not group trees into restricted or discrete quality classes--it is a continuous system where the estimated value of each tree is in itself a "grade."

In comparison with a log grading system, this system has the advantage of being faster, and thus more economical; more objective and thus more consistent. It also eliminates grouping error by being a continuous predictor.

The following describes the development, performance, and application of the new system.

¹Paul H. Lane, Marlin E. Plank, and John W. Henley. A new and easier way to estimate the quality of inland Douglas-fir sawtimber. USDA For. Serv. Res. Pap. PNW-101, 9 p., illus. Pac. Northwest For. & Range Exp. Stn., Portland, Oreg. 1970.

STUDY PROCEDURES

Sample

A sample of 298 trees was selected to represent the full range in diameter and quality of commercial western white pine sawtimber available in northern Idaho. The trees were from eight areas on the Kaniksu, St. Joe, and Coeur d'Alene National Forests as shown in figure 1. The eight areas were chosen to represent differences in tree size, stem quality, and site characteristics. Within each area, individual sample trees were selected on the basis of d.b.h. Some average characteristics of the sample trees by area are shown in table 1.

The study trees were felled and bucked into saw logs according to normal industry practice. The visible surface characteristics of each log were recorded immediately after the trees were felled.

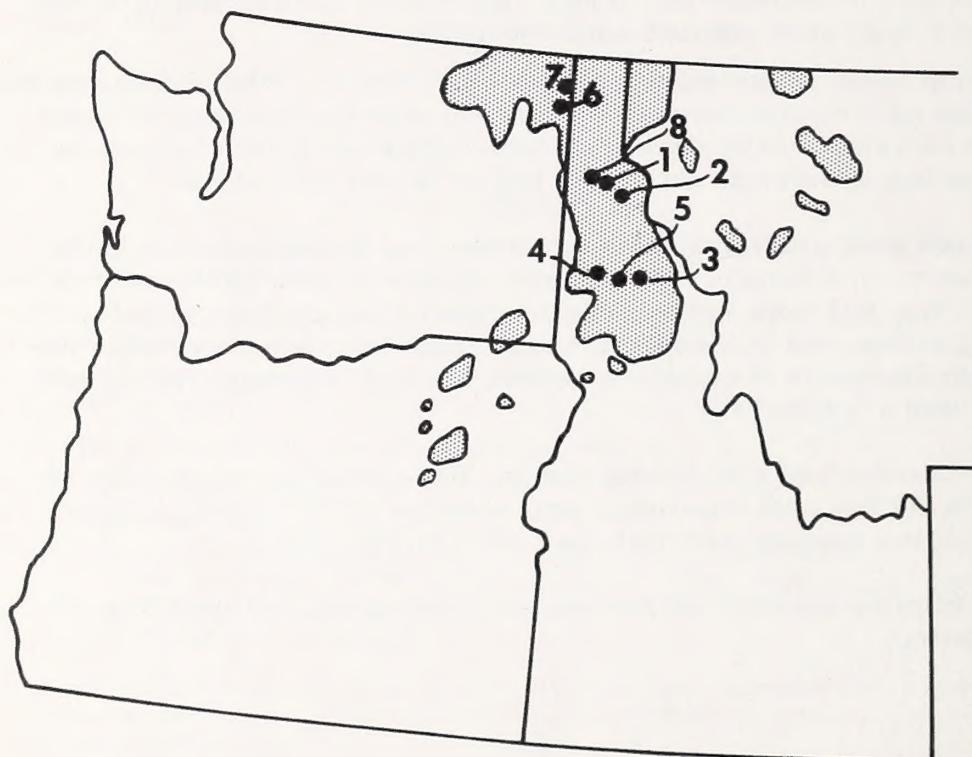


Figure 1.--Range of western white pine in the "Inland Empire" and general locations of the eight areas from which study trees were cut.

Table 1.--Some average characteristics of study trees by sample area

Characteristic	Sample area								Total or average
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
d.b.h. range (inches)	9.9-33.1	11.0-29.6	10.4-45.0	10.9-21.9	9.1-22.3	26.5-54.0	10.5-34.1	9.3-24.3	9.1-54.0
Average d.b.h. (inches)	14.4	23.5	20.9	17.1	13.3	38.4	21.9	15.2	19.2
Total height range (feet)	60-125	83-173	71-200	80-144	81-125	144-215	71-179	84-137	60-215
Average height (feet)	94	142	126	114	102	184	142	109	120
Defect range (percent)	0-66	0-51	0-91	0-19	0-29	10-98	0-56	0-39	0-98
Average defect (percent)	9.2	10.9	18.6	7.8	4.0	40.5	13.8	4.4	12.8
Age range (years)	49-134	107-211	60-170	58-111	53-88	237-336	123-290	58-77	49-336
Average age (years)	74	176	93	84	66	299	213	66	117
Number of trees	70	25	54	20	40	26	27	36	298

The sample trees were processed at what was considered a typical western white pine sawmill. The study logs were sawn under normal production conditions to obtain the highest value from each log. The usual white pine lumber items were produced, and the lumber tally values and volumes were based on kiln-dried, surfaced lumber tally according to general industry practice.

Developing the Prediction Model

Before data analysis, 99 of the 298 sample trees were drawn at random to test the prediction equations that would be developed. Of the remaining trees, 192 were used for model building and estimating the coefficients.²

The "stepwise regression" procedure and the "all possible regressions" procedure³ were used to identify the tree characteristics that were most important in determining tree values and lumber tally volumes.

The general procedure used in building the model was to identify the factors that would affect the dependent variables of tree dollar value and lumber tally volume. These factors in the form of a general model are as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{tree value (dollars)} \\ & \text{or} \\ & \text{lumber tally volume} = \text{tree volume} - \text{tree defect} + \text{tree quality}. \end{aligned}$$

Each factor in the general model can be partially quantified by one or several individual tree characteristics (independent variables). A list of the independent variables that were examined can be found in appendix I. The stepwise regression procedure was used to identify those individual tree characteristics that best represented each factor in the general model. For example, the number of limb-free

²Seven of the 199 trees selected for model building and estimating coefficients were omitted because they were cull trees, i.e., less than 25 percent of the gross volume of the tree was in sound wood. Consequently, the system is designed for sound trees only.

³Terminology taken from Norman Draper and H. Smith. *Applied regression analysis*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 407 p., 1966.

faces on the butt log of the tree might best represent the factor tree quality. The independent variables that either had little or no effect on tree value or volume or were too difficult or impossible to quantify in cruising were omitted after screening. The remaining variables, along with alternative forms of the same variable, were screened by means of the all possible regressions procedure to choose the final variables for the model. The final variables selected for the model were those that were most practical for application in timber appraisals and those that statistically accounted for the most variation in lumber volume and value.

Six measurable characteristics survived as the most important and practical criteria for grading trees:

1. Tree diameter,
2. Tree height,
3. Height to the first live limb,
4. Diameter of the largest limb in the butt 16-foot log,
5. The number of limb-free and defect-free faces in the butt 16-foot log, and
6. Total tree defect (percent).

These six characteristics along with several transformations of the same characteristics were selected as the best independent variables for the model. These variables along with lumber yield information were used to develop the regression equations for predicting total lumber tally volume (board feet) and total value (dollars) on a tree basis. The equation for predicting tree value and/or volume is:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{tree value} \\
 \text{or} \\
 \text{tree volume} &= b_0 + b_1 \text{DEF} (D^2 H) + b_2 D + b_3 H + b_4 \text{HTFL} \\
 &+ b_5 \text{LRLB16} (D^2 H) + b_6 \text{NLFF16} (D^2 H) \\
 &+ b_7 \text{DEFSQR} (D^2 H) + b_8 D^2 + b_9 (H/D)^2 + b_{10} D^2 H
 \end{aligned}$$

where:

b_0 is Y intercept constant.

b_i $i = 1-10$ are the regression coefficients.

DEF is estimated percent defect of gross cruise volume.

DEFSQR is DEF squared.

D is tree diameter in inches at 4.5 feet above ground.

H is the total tree height in feet.

HTFL is the height to the first limb with green needles on the tree.

LRLB16 is the diameter of the largest limb in inches in the butt 16-foot log.

NLFF16 is the number of limb-free and defect-free faces in the butt 16-foot log.

The equations developed account for about 94 percent of the variation in tree value and 95 percent of the variation of the tree lumber tally volume as measured by the regression R^2 values.

HOW THE SYSTEM PERFORMS

Of the 298 sample trees, 99 were selected at random to test the performance of the prediction equations. The six quality criteria measurements were recorded for each of the 99 trees. Predictions of the lumber selling value and volume were then calculated, using the procedures described in the next section of this paper.

Table 2 shows comparisons of estimated and actual values totaled for the 99 test trees. Plots of the estimated versus actual tree values and volumes of individual trees are shown in figures 2 and 3. As shown in figures 2 and 3, the value or volume of individual trees may not be estimated accurately by the equation; but there are approximately equal numbers of high and low estimates. Table 2 shows that there is little difference between the estimated and actual; i.e., a 6.5-percent difference for value and a 2.7-percent difference for volume.

Table 2.--A comparison of actual and predicted lumber selling value and volume for 99 western white pine trees

Unit	Estimated	Actual	Percent difference
Total value ^{1/} (dollars)	8,376.00	8,964.24	-6.5
Total lumber tally volume (board feet)	72,695.00	74,745.00	-2.7

^{1/} Value based on 1968 lumber prices developed for western white pine by U.S. Forest Service, Region 1.

HOW TO USE THE SYSTEM

Computer facilities for making regression analyses and solving equations are essential for efficient use of the system.

It is also necessary to have, in a form suitable for computer use, the tree characteristic data (the six grading criteria) and lumber grade yield data for each of the 192 trees from the mill study used to develop the system. A listing of the 192 cards containing the necessary information and the card format are illustrated in appendix II.

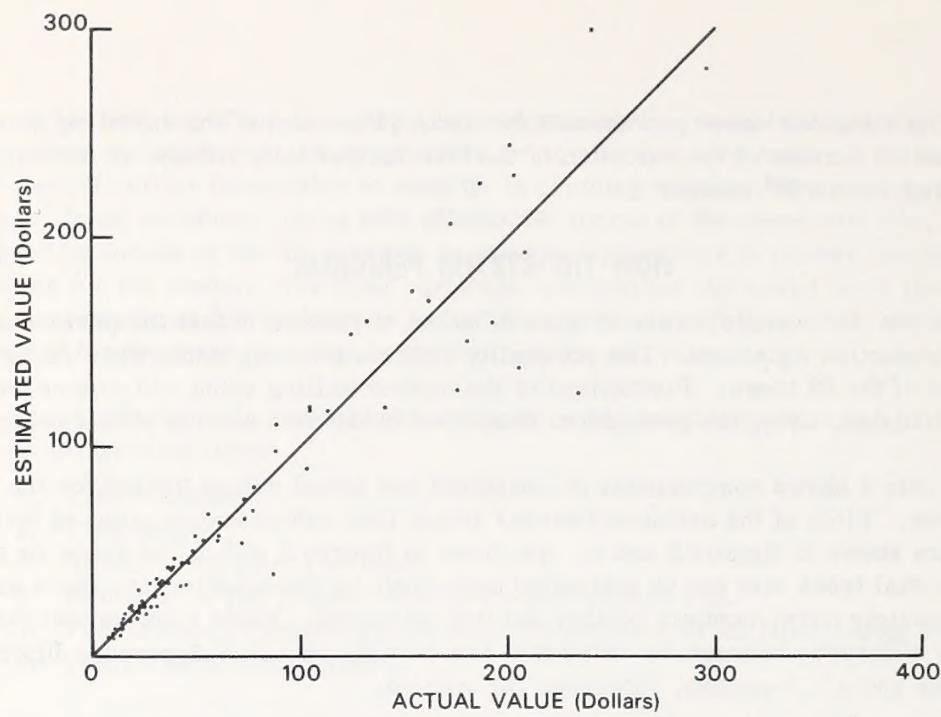


Figure 2.--Plot of estimated over actual tree value.

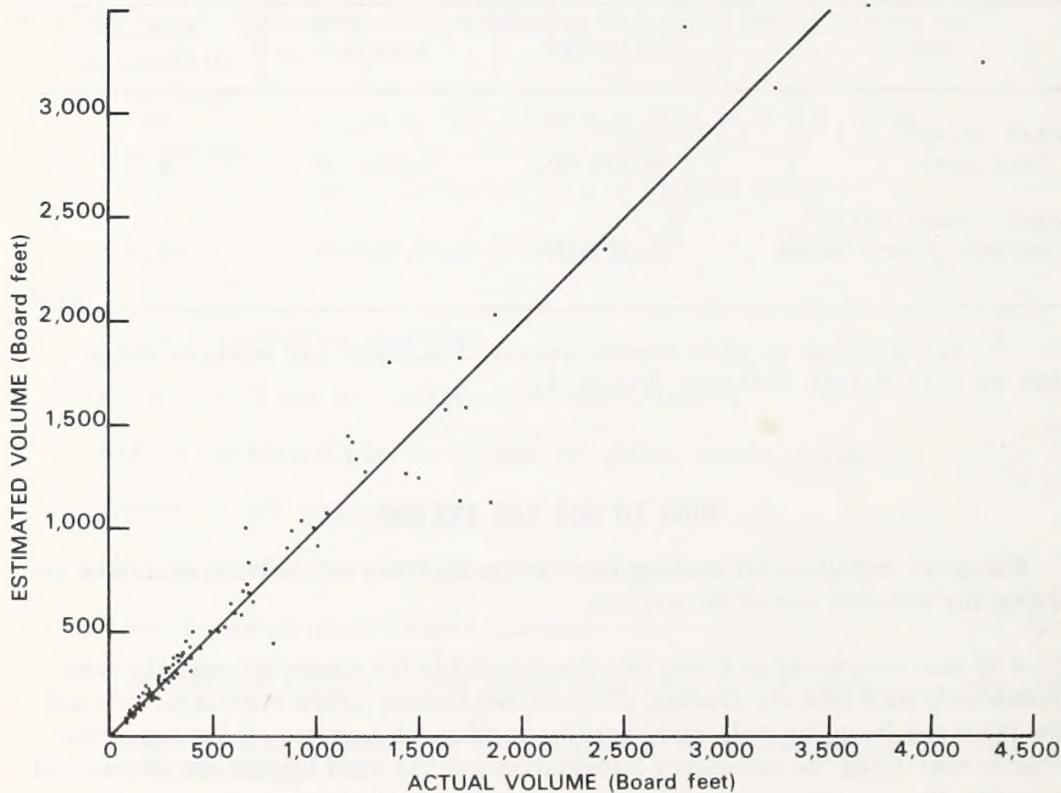


Figure 3.--Plot of estimated over actual tree lumber tally volume.

A step-by-step procedure for estimating the selling value of a group of trees or tract of timber is as follows:

1. Select sample trees.
2. Measure and record for each sample tree the six characteristics: (1) tree diameter, (2) tree height, (3) tree defect, (4) height to the first live limb, (5) size of the largest limb in the butt 16-foot log, and (6) the number of limb-free and defect-free tree faces on the butt 16-foot log. More complete information on how to measure and record these characteristics is shown in appendix III.
3. Assign desired lumber prices to each of the lumber grades (or combinations) recorded in the base study.
4. Using these assigned lumber prices, compute a dollar value for each of the 192 trees from the base study.
5. Use an appropriate multiple regression program to develop the value equation coefficients for the 192 trees. Use the assigned lumber prices (step 4) and the six tree characteristic variables and transformations as follows:

Dependent variable:

$$\text{Total dollars}/D^2H$$

Independent variables:

$$DEF$$

$$DEFSQR$$

$$LRLB16$$

$$NLFF16$$

$$D/D^2H$$

$$H/D^2H$$

$$D^2/D^2H$$

$$(H/D)^2/D^2H$$

$$HTFLL/D^2H$$

$$1/D^2H$$

6. Solve the value equation for the selected sample trees in step 1 using coefficients developed in step 5.

To estimate the lumber volume of a sample tree or group of trees, simply solve the following equation using the coefficients shown:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Total lumber tally volume (bd. ft.)} = & -393 - (.00005126)(DEF)(D^2H) \\ & + (88.9538)(D) - (5.61835)(H) \\ & + (.40147)(HTFLL) - (.000131608)(LRLB16)(D^2H) \\ & - (.000323497)(NLFF16)(D^2H) \\ & - (.0000008985)(DEFSQR)(D^2H) \\ & + (2.27154)(H/D)^2 - (3.14853)(D^2) \\ & + (.0234706)(D^2H) \end{aligned}$$

CONCLUSIONS

Field application tests of the system indicate that the tree-valuation system reported has several advantages over valuation systems based on the discrete log grades currently being used.

It is faster to apply and thus more economical. Other than measuring total tree height and the height to the first live limb, the characteristics to be measured are confined to the butt 16-foot log. It is not necessary to look at each 16-foot segment as is the case with a discrete log grade system. It requires less experience and judgment by the timber cruiser; thus, training and checking of cruisers is easier. Selling price is computed easily and more directly than by procedures that involve adjusting yield by log overrun estimates. The user should remember that, as with any statistical procedure of this nature, the equations may not show the value of an *individual* tree accurately; they should be used to estimate the total value of a group of trees.

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The information presented in this report is the result of the cooperation of several organizations and a great many people. Loggers, truckers, scalers, foresters, and others made it possible to carry out this research.

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Coeur d'Alene National Forest--for personnel for fieldwork and milling operations.

Western Wood Products Association--for providing a grading supervisor.

APPENDIX I. LIST OF INDEPENDENT VARIABLES

Defect Related

1. Defect percent
2. Defect percent squared

Presence or absence of:

3. Scars and/or seams
4. Basal scars and/or seams
5. Nonbasal scars and/or seams
6. All scars
7. Basal scars
8. Nonbasal scars
9. All seams
10. Basal seams
11. Nonbasal seams

Length of:

12. All scars and seams
13. Basal scars and seams
14. Nonbasal scars and seams
15. All scars
16. Basal scars
17. Nonbasal scars
18. All seams
19. Basal seams
20. Nonbasal seams

Presence or absence of:

21. Sucker limbs
22. Live sucker limbs
23. Dead sucker limbs
24. Bulges and/or bumps
25. Burl over 4 inches
26. Rotten knots
27. Conks
28. Broken top
29. Snow break
30. Blister rust cankers
31. Total number of burls
32. Total number of rotten knots on tree
33. Total number of rotten knots on butt 32-foot log
34. Total number of conks
35. Total number of knot clusters
36. Total diameter of burls
37. Total diameter of knot clusters
38. Sweep deviation
39. Crook deviation
40. Count of defects

Quality Related

41. Height to the first dead limb
42. Height to the first live limb
43. Size of the first dead limb
44. Size of the first live limb
45. Size of the largest limb (live or dead) on the butt 16-foot log
46. Size of the largest limb (live or dead) on the butt 32-foot log
47. Height to the start of the crown
48. Crown length
49. Crown length per height to the start of the crown
50. Height of clear bole allowing no defect
51. Height of clear bole allowing defect
52. Height of limb-free bole allowing no defect
53. Height of limb-free bole allowing defect
54. Total length of clear face in 4-foot minimum units in the butt 16-foot log
55. Total length of clear face in 4-foot minimum units in the butt 32-foot log
56. Total length of clear face in 8-foot minimum units in the butt 16-foot log
57. Total length of clear face in 8-foot minimum units in the butt 32-foot log
58. Total length of clear bole in 4-foot minimum units on the tree
59. Number of 4-foot clear panels on the tree
60. Number of 4-foot clear panels on the butt 16-foot log
61. Number of 4-foot clear panels on the butt 32-foot log
62. Number of 8-foot clear panels on the butt 16-foot log
63. Number of 8-foot clear panels on the butt 32-foot log
64. Number of 8-foot limb-free panels on the butt 16-foot log allowing defect
65. Number of 8-foot limb-free panels on the butt 16-foot log not allowing defect
66. Number of clear panels on the butt 16-foot log allowing defect
67. Number of clear panels on the butt 16-foot log not allowing defect
68. Number of limb-free faces on the butt 16-foot log allowing defect
69. Number of limb-free faces on the butt 16-foot log not allowing defect
70. Number of limb-free faces on the butt 32-foot log allowing defect
71. Number of limb-free faces on the butt 32-foot log not allowing defect
72. Number of 1-inch and less knots on the butt 16-foot log
73. Number of 2-inch and less knots on the butt 16-foot log
74. Number of 3-inch and less knots on the butt 16-foot log
75. Number of knots greater than 3 inches on the butt 16-foot log
76. Number of 1-inch and less knots on the butt 32-foot log
77. Number of 2-inch and less knots on the butt 32-foot log
78. Number of 3-inch and less knots on the butt 32-foot log
79. Number of knots greater than 3 inches on the butt 32-foot log

Volume Related

- 80. $DBH = D$
- 81. Total height = H
- 82. 16-foot form class
- 83. 32-foot form class
- 84. (D/H)
- 85. $(D/H)^2$
- 86. (H/D)
- 87. $(H/D)^2$
- 88. D^2
- 89. H^2
- 90. D^2H

Miscellaneous

- 91. Age
- 92. Amount of lean

APPENDIX II. TREE QUALITY CHARACTERISTICS AND LUMBER YIELD DATA

The tree quality characteristics and lumber yield data for each of the 192 western white pine trees from the base study are shown in the following list according to the card format shown below.

List of Characteristics

<i>Columns</i>	<i>Data</i>
1- 3	Tree Number
4- 6	Defect Percent
7- 9	DBH
10-12	Total Height
13-15	Height to First Live Limb
16	Largest Limb in Butt 16-foot Log
17	Number of Limb-free and Defect-free Faces in the Butt 16-foot Log
18-21	Volume B Select Lumber
22-25	Volume C Select Lumber
26-29	Volume D Select Lumber
30-33	Volume Molding
34-37	Volume 3 Clear
38-41	Volume 1 Shop
42-45	Volume 2 Shop
46-49	Volume 3 Shop
50-53	Volume 1 Common
54-57	Volume 2 Common
58-61	Volume 3 Common
62-65	Volume 4 Common
66-69	Volume 5 Common
70-73	Total Lumber Tally Volume

53	102	73	361	96	169	113	213
54	512	90	4211	85	56	72	463
55	1138	99	331	44	159	10	5
56	3171	12	321	167	236	105	6
57	8116	91	321	56	57	19	38
58	162103	3411	116	116	175	72	4
59	3178	96	3611	191	215	60	466
60	111	77	4011	43	45	16	104
61	40104	81	4011	19	33	19	68
62	120	92	12	5	145	117	212
63	142100	3211	5	83	63	31	181
64	3187101	3211	3	75	221	47	355
65	142102	3211	5	89	195	36	5
66	135105	3211	53	53	162	21	253
67	4152100	3211	5	120	90	7	217
68	142102	3211	5	24	304	616	157
69	135105	3211	5	32	216	683	387
70	1243155	5412	19	123	960	318	9176
71	24279156	4621	27	123	960	318	9176
72	51157104	5211	4	35	271	87	34442
73	4279166	6611	5	36	448	564	195
74	51157104	5211	4	46	163	990	173
75	1260168	7013	15	7	34	17	65
76	4296166	5213	36	13	249	475	111
77	4411083	2411	16	13	397	710	204
78	10224152	9211	10	65	379	570	290
79	6253170	891	36	45	110	302	236
80	2681379024	5	10	47	523	618	24
81	3247133	312	1	46	98	688	306
82	245145	2012	1	16	267	96	11
83	15253147	6011	3	16	14	149	415
84	6177119	3212	9	58	608	153	720
85	42238128	3812	27	14	321	149	47
86	9216139	6011	4	13	58	608	14
87	166109	148	21	24	78	182	47
88	4289165	4804	1	10	30	203	37
89	20198123	20221	1	11	39	114	29
90	9216139	6011	3	13	74	10	5
91	166109	148	1	12	13	13	14
92	4289165	4804	1	141	171	37	360
93	20198123	20221	1	17	22	3	571

1	58	23	168	118	120	1	8	12	418
2	59	821	914	601	12	1	2	934	547
3	60	61821	12	401	12	8	1	2	105
4	62	161681	06	302	5	5	5	25	367
5	63	51751	18	322	5	2	2	21	468
6	64	11616	94	361	15	9	3	13	136
7	65	118112	1	361	15	16	1	4	475
8	67	125	91	361	15	16	1	3	166
9	68	41621	19	601	15	16	1	4	544
10	69	4188124	611	115	99	251	1	3	348
11	71	157110	441	139	118	3624	5	1	156
12	73	157110	441	174	139	118	3624	14	298
13	74	106	97	281	12	8	1	4	88
14	75	157112	241	3	5	8	1	4	71
15	76	114100	241	3	32	57	80	3	378
16	77	14694	191	3	3	91	81	12	154
17	78	15140	89	2413	3	3	3	1	204
18	79	13495	2813	3	7	57	114	1	158
19	80	1223119	2414	8	19	6	5	1	181
20	81	179195	3012	5	16	95	511	90	700
21	82	110696	3612	8	10	19	77	32	64
22	83	118103	3612	8	1	6	78	16	110
23	84	4145113	481	8	1	43	131	1	311
24	85	118103	3612	8	1	42	104	1	160
25	86	111195	271	1	71	51	1	6	128
26	87	10493	291	1	46	25	3	74	74
27	88	127105	36	1	44	103	4	5	156
28	89	139100	301	2	4	48	116	2	200
29	90	2130101	321	2	48	102	8	2	160
30	91	14122106	32	3	74	58	1	40	140
31	92	9483	122	4	11	30	1	3	54
32	93	130100	20	4	82	93	1	3	192
33	94	121103	361	2	4	58	88	16	168

216	63321181	844	52	73	9	11	50	4	365	347	88	121069
218	10507195	444	4601023	884	628	323	334	115	62	2531468	727	1536375
219	30540197	603	348	640	996	445	296	192	7	3331007	447	1084934
224	50321178	642	301	143	9	23	23	23	41	201449	383	501311
225	19429196	652	191	615	535	326	60	35	36	363798	505	1173605
226	18450191	764	144	347	678	370	139	145	48	4131423	721	4724998
228	14423179	404	122	4071	072	414	32	92	21	1841244	666	244498
329	48421182	9212	61	239	309	102	70	76	134	8172	369	922403
230	45368194	721	14	83	213	103	71	41	201	852	361	381997
232	33331180	961	36	90	193	101	28	82	42	2631027	306	2282418
234	26358205100	1	168	417	701	267	41	81	29	3571067	462	2013814
235	30415215124	3	69	302	533	242	234	274	5	238	203	5
239	27156125	4013	18	6	7	5	57	21165	15	365	150	365
240	183110	4411	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
241	6160126	361	7	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
243	1711498	361	29	33	48	13	16	16	32	349139	32	150
246	72204148	4111	8	7	33	8	72	70	22	205447	86	752
247	4180152	603	248	52243154	4412	13	31	72	349139	32	600	
250	5187190	6813	250	322341179	6011	14	56	60	2205447	86	479	
252	322341179	6011	253	3209145	4411	14	31	90	349139	32	3252312	
254	35316168	681	254	35316168	681	14	80	16	16	4771897	341	1415
255	15240161	7611	255	56228154	4412	9	7	83	5	52165	165	2362173
256	56228154	4412	256	13141172	624	10	10	8	102307	161	83663	
257	4275155	544	257	73141172	624	13	140	154	102	2511108	341	201972
258	9238161	624	258	115	95	443	28	61	52	462346	70	1192
260	73141172	624	260	115	95	443	28	61	52	566183	153	81156
262	115	95	262	115	95	443	28	61	52	61123	34	121
263	105	71	263	163114	201	263	105	71	52	4222	14	78
265	163114	201	265	2200126	262	163114	201	262	163114	201	66129	8
266	2200126	262	266	911890	121	266	2200126	262	266	217318	75	2353
267	911890	121	267	200103	192	267	911890	121	267	66129	8	648
268	200103	192	268	252195	452	268	200103	192	268	66129	8	103

18	270	1	0243137	322	17	50	58	6	23	155	550	184	1025
19	273	1	2184361						105	69	3	200	376
20	274	1	9165122	362					129	211	27	9	320
21	275	71	5291	291					74	56	33	163	496
22	276	391	3489	251					21	259	191	17	148
23	277	1	69119	321					7	23	87	38	459
24	278	120101	441						7	128	247	60	164
25	279	181113	161						110	54			296
26	280	811696	2011						24	78	140	54	450
27	281	142108	271						176	242	32		70
28	283	3165115	521						7	12	38	16	380
29	284	9994	281						40	186	151		131
30	286	157124	321						43	69	17		408
31	287	110103	461						62	37	8	12	553
32	288	10292	251						42	187	114	58	69
33	290	3157108	361						12	275	188	57	12
34	292	2187127	321						1	46	12		863
35	294	9398	401						1	380	60		761
36	295	4209142	321						66	317			244
37	297	20935	302						69	300	252	112	20
38	299	137100	321						13	154	57		5
39	300	125109	441						78	116			215

APPENDIX III. INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING THE SYSTEM

Instructions for measuring and recording the western white pine tree characteristics used in the equations are shown below.

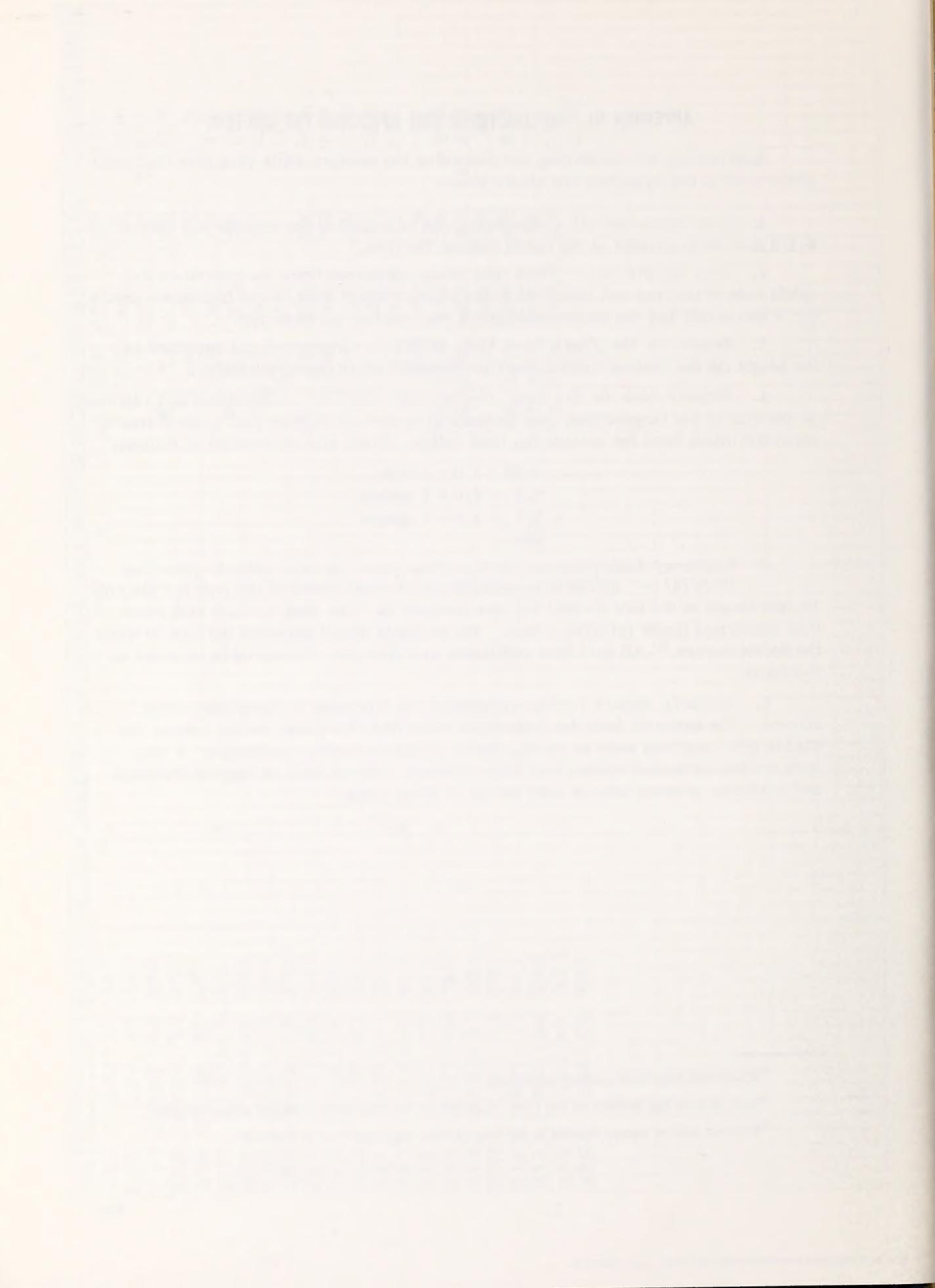
1. *Tree diameter (D).*-- Measured and recorded to the nearest 0.1 inch at 4-1/2 feet above ground on the uphill side on the tree.
2. *Tree height (H).*-- Total tree height measured from the ground on the uphill side of the tree and recorded to the nearest foot. This height includes a dead top if one exists and the projected height if the tree has a broken top.
3. *Height to the first live limb (HTFLL).*-- Measured and recorded as the height (to the nearest foot) to the first branch⁴ which has live needles.
4. *Largest limb in the butt 16-foot log (LRLB16).*-- Measured and recorded as the size of the largest limb (see footnote 4) in the butt 16-foot log.⁵ Limb size is recorded inside bark but outside the limb collar. Limb size is rounded as follows:

0.25 - 1.0 = 1 inch
1.1 - 2.0 = 2 inches
2.1 - 3.0 = 3 inches
etc.
5. *Number of limb-free and defect-free faces in the butt 16-foot log (NLFB16).*-- A face is one-fourth the circumference of the tree for the full 16-foot length of the butt 16-foot log (see footnote 5). Any limb or limb stub other than epicormic limbs removes a face. Any scalable defect removes the face in which the defect occurs.⁶ All size knot indicators are allowed. The variable is coded as 0-4 faces.
6. *Scalable defect (DEF).*--Expressed as a percent of the gross cruise volume. The estimate includes deductions made from the gross cruise volume for visible abnormalities such as crook, conks, cankers, burls, and bumps. It also includes the estimated volume loss from unknown sources such as logging breakage and hidden or internal defects such as rot or pitch rings.

⁴Epicormic branches are not recorded.

⁵Butt 16-foot log defined as the first 16.5 feet of the tree above normal stump height.

⁶If crook and/or sweep occurs in the butt 16-foot log, one face is removed.



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Within this overall mission, the Station conducts and stimulates research to facilitate and to accelerate progress toward the following goals:

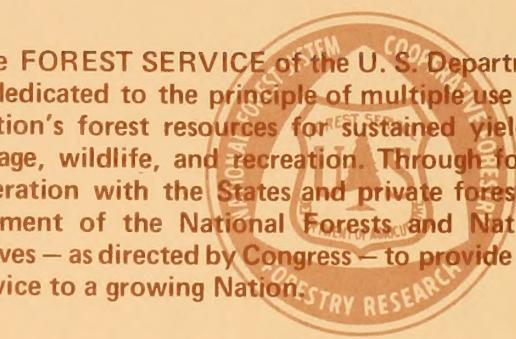
1. Providing safe and efficient technology for inventory, protection, and use of resources.
2. Development and evaluation of alternative methods and levels of resource management.
3. Achievement of optimum sustained resource productivity consistent with maintaining a high quality forest environment.

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